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**AMSTER  
ROTHSTEIN  
& EBENSTEIN LLP**  
*Intellectual Property Law*90 Park Avenue  
New York NY 10016

Main 212 336 8000

Fax 212 336 8001

Web www.arelaw.com

February 10, 2009

To: Melissa E. Kolom  
Leydig, Voit & Mayer, Ltd.

Fax: 571-273-4139

Voice: 571-272-4139

From: Alan D. Miller Esq.

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application No. 10/501,628

Title: MUTATIONS CAUSED BY ACTIVATION-INDUCED  
CYTIDINE DEAMINASE

Inventors: Alberto Martin and Matthew D. Scharff

Your Ref.: 703828

Our File: 96700/905

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Prepd. by: Return to: rf No. of pages including cover: 2

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601-6731(312) 616-5600  
FACSIMILE: (312) 616-5700  
WWW.LEYDIG.COM

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Via Electronic Mail

JAMES B. MUSKAL  
DENNIS R. SCHLEMMER  
JOHN W. KOZAK  
MARK E. PHELPS  
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ELIAS P. SOUPPO  
ALICE C. SU  
EMER L. SIMIC  
CHRISTOPHER K. LEACH

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
700 THIRTEENTH STREET, N.W., SUITE 300  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3960  
(202) 737-8770  
FACSIMILE: (202) 737-8776

ROCKFORD OFFICE  
6815 WEAVER ROAD, SUITE 300  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61114-8018  
(815) 963-7661  
FACSIMILE: (815) 963-7664

SEATTLE OFFICE  
1420 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 3670  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101-4011  
(206) 428-3100  
FACSIMILE: (206) 428-3100

OF COUNSEL  
C. FREDERICK LEYDIG GORDON R. COONS  
GERTON SCOTT SHEPPARD

TECHNICAL ADVISORS  
KRISTEN J. HAPFELL JASON A. MILLER  
MELISSA E. KOLOH REBECCA B. DISE  
RACHEL J. WELSHICH YUKI ONOG  
DEREK W. BARNETT JONATHAN M. SPENNER  
KATHLEEN M. HELMSBYCHOWSKI ALAN J. NICKMAN  
FRANCIS J. KOSZYK TIMOTHY R. CARLSON  
ELIZABETH M. CROMPTON R. RAYMOND CHEN

ALL RESIDENT IN CHICAGO OFFICE AS NOTED  
\*\*RESIDENT IN WASHINGTON OFFICE  
\*\*RESIDENT IN ROCKFORD OFFICE

Alan D. Miller, Ph.D., Esq.  
Amster, Rothstein & Ebenstein LLP  
90 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE  
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Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/501,628  
"Mutations Caused by Activation-Induced Cytidine Deaminase"  
(Martin et al. - AECOM)  
ARE Reference: 96700/905  
LVM Reference: 703828

Dear Dr. Miller:

Thank you for your email of November 18, 2008, which forwarded an Office Action in the above-referenced patent application. Please prepare a draft reply to the Office Action in accordance with our instructions, which are set forth below. In order to ensure that the proposed amendments are considered by the Examiner, please also file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Please replace claims 1-9, 13, 15, 18-25, 58, 97, 125, and 262-307 with claims 1-9, 13, 15, 18-25, 58, 97, 125, and 262-307 as set forth in the attached "Proposed Claim Amendments" (redlined and clean claim sets). The amended claims point out more particularly and claim more distinctly the present invention as compared to the existing pending claims. In general, the claims have been amended to clarify that the method comprises inducing and identifying a mutation in a DNA sequence encoding a protein, an antibody, an antibody heavy chain, or a monoclonal antibody. Claims 1, 58, 97, and 125 also have been amended to recite that AID deaminates the DNA sequence. This amendment is supported by the specification at, e.g., paragraphs 0101, 0171, 0194, and 0217. Claim 1 also has been amended to delete the phrase "wherein the gene subject to mutation is within about two kilobases of the promoter." The